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January 21, 2009

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**LATIN AMERICAN POSTERS: PUBLIC AESTHETICS AND MASS POLITICS
ON EXHIBIT THROUGH MARCH 12, 2009 AT THE CENTER FOR ART & THEATRE**



Latin American Posters: Public Aesthetics and Mass Politics, an exhibition of over one hundred graphics illuminating the history and culture of thirteen Latin American countries will be on exhibit at Georgia Southern University January 12-March 12 at the Center for Art & Theatre. A public reception takes place on Friday, January 30th from 5-7 pm. Curator Teresa Eckmann will speak on Wednesday, February 25th from 5-7 pm in the Visual Arts Building Auditorium about the travelling exhibition and the selections she chose from the 10,000 strong Sam L. Slick Collection of Latin American and Iberian Posters, housed in the University of New Mexico Libraries. The public is invited to attend all exhibition and gallery events presented by the Betty Foy Sanders Department of Art.

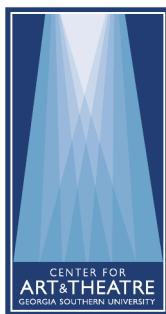
Dating from the late 1950s to 2005, the posters in the exhibition explore five broad-ranging themes: (1) Imperialism, Solidarity, and Self Determination; (2) Icons, Martyrs, and Charismatic Leaders; (3) Human Rights, Feminism, and Indigenism; (4) Revolution and Popular Movements; and (5) Culture, Society, and Film.

These powerful images were selected to represent some of the most dynamic graphic designs from the second half of the 20th century. Many of the works are not attributed, as is typical of the poster medium, yet the exhibition includes works by such well-known artists as Raúl Martínez, René Mederos

Pazos, and Eduardo Muñoz Bachs of Cuba, Jesús Ruiz Durand of Peru, Antonio Martorell, Lorenzo Homar, and Rafael Tufiño of Puerto Rico, and Claes Oldenburg, Rupert García and Ester Hernández of the United States.

Dr. Teresa Eckmann, co-curator of the exhibition and Assistant Professor of Contemporary Latin American History at the University of Texas, San Antonio states, "Latin American Posters is an exhibit that will intrigue and appeal to a diverse audience, from those well-versed in graphic design and the political history of Latin America, to those unfamiliar with printing techniques or the issues at hand. They speak boldly about universal concerns such as human rights, sovereignty, and equal opportunity."

Patricia Carter, Chair of the Betty Foy Sanders Department of Art echoes Eckmann's praise of the exhibition's appeal adding, "the democratic gestures of both printmaking and graphic design media are immensely powerful in their ability to evoke dialog around the world with ease through mass production of visual imagery, and in their ability to bring visual images to the public in ways that break away from sterile white walls of a gallery –such as installations in public spaces like community centers, park kiosks, libraries, or as graffiti prints and paste-ups on city streets— and in doing so they strengthen communities and promote change through a messaging system that remains as powerful today as it was when the first letterpress political poster was pulled centuries ago. Although these posters are framed and



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presented in a formal gallery space as historical examples, one cannot help but feel the past actions of each image as you envision their public presence and imagine the conversations they prompted.”

Educational and public programs will be scheduled throughout the run of the exhibition at Georgia Southern University. Please check the Betty Foy Sanders Department of Art website at <http://class.georgiasouthern.edu/art> for detailed information about these programs or to schedule a guided docent tour. A 188-page, richly illustrated catalogue of the exhibition, edited by Russ Davidson, and published by the Museum of New Mexico Press, will be available at the Center for Art & Theatre for purchase. The catalogue was made possible by the University of New Mexico's Center for Regional Studies, University of New Mexico Libraries, and Lee Blaugrund.

Gallery Programming is supported by Student Activity Fees; all events are free and open to the public. In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, Georgia Southern University will honor reasonable requests for accommodations. The Center for Art & Theatre is open Monday through Friday from 9 - 5 and by appointment. Docent tours are welcome and available upon request by calling (912) GSU-ARTS. For more information on this exhibition and other gallery programming provided by the Betty Foy Sanders Department of Art, visit <http://class.georgiasouthern.edu/art/>.